



2004 Survey

Senator
Tim Sheldon
35th Legislative
District

Olympia Office:
422 John A. Cherberg
Building
P.O. Box 40435
Olympia, WA 98504-0435
Phone: (360) 786-7668
FAX: (360) 786-7524

District Office:
P.O. Box 474
Hoodspport, WA 98548
Phone: (360) 877-5768

E-mail:
Sheldon_ti@leg.wa.gov

**Toll-free Legislative
Hot Line:**
(800) 562-6000

**Hearing-impaired
Hot Line:**
(800) 635-9993

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you enjoyed the holiday season, and I wish you a happy 2004. For me, the New Year means a new legislative session. This session we will face some significant challenges.

The most important issues to me are the ones that affect working families, seniors, and other people who are just trying to get ahead, or even just hang on to tomorrow. That's why it is important for me to hear from you. It makes me a better lawmaker and it helps me understand the issues facing communities like ours.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey, which asks questions about public schools, taxes and other important issues. These issues will come up for discussion in 2004, and I need to know your views.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you around the district. Please feel free to contact me at my office via e-mail at sheldon_ti@leg.wa.gov or phone at (360) 786-7668.

Sincerely,

Tim Sheldon
State Senator, 35th Legislative District

1 A bill that will be before the Legislature this session proposes an amendment to the state constitution that would allow local school levies, and perhaps bonds, to pass with a simple majority vote (50 percent), instead of the 60 percent supermajority currently needed.

Would you support this measure?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Comments _____

2 Another idea to generate more funding for public schools is the idea of a 1-cent sales tax increase. Would you support a 1-cent increase in the state sales tax in order to provide more funding for public schools?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Comments _____

3 Last session, the Legislature passed a 5-cent increase in the state gas tax, a 15 percent gross-weight fee increase for commercial trucks, and a 0.3 percent sales tax increase on motor vehicles. These tax increases will pay for \$4.2 billion in road improvements during the next 10 years.

Do you support these tax increases?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Comments _____

4 Would you support partially funding new highways and bridges with tolls?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Comments _____

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PO Box 40435
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Property taxes are a big concern. As property values have increased, many people are being forced to sell their homes because they can no longer afford to pay the property taxes.

Would you support a measure that would cap property taxes?

Yes

No

Comments

6

A senior citizen property tax exemption is now available for seniors making less than \$30,000 a year. If you would like more information, please contact your county assessor's office.

Have you applied for the senior citizen property tax exemption?

Yes

No

Comments

7

For most people, the cost of quality health care goes up every year. Many experts say the rising cost of medical malpractice insurance is partly to blame. Some doctors are actually leaving the profession because they can no longer pay for medical malpractice insurance.

Would you support a measure that capped the amount people could receive in damages from malpractice lawsuits in order to make malpractice insurance more affordable?

Yes

No

Comments

8

A federal court has ruled our state's blanket primary system unconstitutional. The blanket primary allows voters to choose any candidate on the ballot regardless of party affiliation. If we have to replace the blanket primary, which system would you prefer?

Closed primary, where voters must register with a political party when they register to vote. At the polls, they receive a ballot with only their chosen party's candidates for office.

Open primary, where voters do not have to register with a party, but do have to choose a party-specific ballot at the polls.

Modified blanket primary, where voters simply select one candidate in each race. The two candidates who receive the most votes proceed to the general election, regardless of party affiliation.

Comments

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What other issues are important to you?

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